Libraries of the Future by J. C. R. Licklider
Review by: Gilbert W. King
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point of view are Porterfield Oil Company (A) and (B), Proctor and Gamble Company (A) and (B), and the Westinghouse Transformer Division (B). On the other hand, some of the cases seem to have little or no value within the context and focus of the book; illustrative cases are the Kender Company, Defense Electronic Systems, Incorporated, Andrews Machine Company, and New England Telephone and Telegraph Company.

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J. C. R. LICKLIDER, *Libraries of the Future*, The MIT Press, Cambridge Massachusetts, 1965, 237 pages, $6.00

TO WRITE about "Libraries of the Future" is a dangerous occupation, for they will be dependent on the radical developments of data processors in regard to both technology and methodology. It is reasonable to expect major discoveries that will revolutionize the mechanics of information handling, and it is to be hoped that there will be fundamental new ideas that will take programming of nonnumerical data out of its present empirical pattern.

The author, in many places in this book, implies that current technology and methodology are inadequate to solve the problem fully, and his book is not so much about "Libraries of the Future" as predictions of things past, which may have little bearing on future systems.

Nevertheless, DR. LICKLIDER has produced a very valuable and concise account of all the topics pertinent to present-day activities attacking the library problem. It is careful and thoughtful enough to be read by professionals in the field, yet looks to the future guardedly enough to be provocative and stimulating.

Typical of the concrete reference or tutorial sections are estimates of the size of the corpus of knowledge, the kinds of languages used by computers, and the present state of understanding of natural languages, and the dialogues between man and machine.

A criticism one might have of this book is that the whole approach is strongly influenced by *numerical* computers, and their success with numerical analysis and Boolean logic. In this connection, this reviewer takes strong issue with Dr. Licklider's criticism of English (and other natural languages) for its ambiguities. EMPSON in *Seven Types of Ambiguity* makes a case for the usefulness and necessity of ambiguity in a sophisticated language. Data processors must learn to cope.

GILBERT W. KING

DIMITRIS N. CHOROFAS, *Systems and Simulation*, Academic Press, New York, N.Y., 1965, 519 pages, $14.50

AT VARIOUS places in the introductory sections of this book the impression is given that what is to come is a fundamental, well-elaborated discussion of techniques of mathematical modeling of systems, systems analysis, and simulation. However, the presentation is less focused and less complete than suggested. Indeed, some of the mathematical sections of the book seem rather extraneous to its main purposes. Nonetheless, a wide range of examples of modeling, systems analy-

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